



IOWA RECOVERY TIMES

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Iowa Homeland Security
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Smarter**

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IWD GRANT ANNOUNCED FOR IOWA'S DISASTER-IMPACTED SMALL BUSINESSES

Disaster-affected small businesses, family farms and non-profit organizations can now apply for additional financial assistance through the Small Business Disaster Recovery Grant Program.

The program, administered by Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), provides a grant of up to \$5,000 for damages incurred from last year's floods and tornadoes.

To be eligible, a business, non-profit agency or farm must have existed prior to

the disaster; have 25 or fewer employees; be located in a county that was declared eligible for Public Assistance by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and experienced a dislocation of at least

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REBUILD IOWA OFFICE RELEASES ITS FIRST QUARTERLY REPORT

The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) released its first Quarterly Report on April 13. The report includes a comprehensive look at the progress made in recovery efforts from Iowa's 2008 storms and floods.

The 70-page report offers an overview of the disaster assistance programs helping impacted Iowans; outreach to communities to assist with long-term planning; flood mitigation efforts; charts detailing disaster-related funding; disaster recovery activities of various state departments; and disaster photos from across Iowa. Long-term recovery challenges and Iowa's remaining recovery goals are also addressed.



The RIO Quarterly Report addressed disaster recovery programs and progress in areas such as housing and business.



"This report shows the magnitude of this disaster and the recovery efforts accomplished to date. However, there is still much work to be done," said Lt. General Ron Dardis, RIO Executive Director. "While this report was prepared for the Legislature and the Governor, we believe we must also do everything we can to convey the

recovery's progress and remaining challenges to Iowans and their communities."

To access the RIO's April 2009 Quarterly Report, visit the RIO Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov. The Rebuild Iowa Office's next report will be released in July.

REMEMBRANCE & RENEWAL: ONE-YEAR DISASTER COMMEMORATION

One year after last summer's disasters, affected communities from across Iowa will be hosting events to commemorate the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding.

The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) and other state agencies have been working with Iowa's disaster-affected communities to assist in their events.

Although the planning is done by each community to meet their specific needs, the RIO has been offering its support through publicizing events, organizing visits from state-level dignitaries and offering representatives from state agencies to be present to answer questions and provide more information about recovery activities

and available assistance.

The RIO will also offer a full list of community events on its Web site once final plans are available.

Additional communities interested in state participation are encouraged to contact Juli Probasco-Sowers at the Rebuild Iowa Office at (515) 242-5234.

RIO CLARIFIES CDBG FUNDING PROCESS FOR DISASTER RECOVERY

To date, Iowa has been awarded about \$282 million in federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to help the state recover from the 2008 disasters. The Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is expected to allocate another \$4 billion in CDBG funds among 33 disaster-impacted states, including Iowa, later this spring. Iowa has already filed an application for the next award; however, until HUD makes the announcement, we will not know Iowa's allocation or when the state will have access to those funds.

In the meantime, it is important to address some of the parameters existing with these funds. CDBG dollars are currently helping fund Iowa's disaster recovery programs which assist communities with new housing production, homeowner repair, small rental rehabilitation, large rental property repair, lead paint abatement training, small business assistance, floodplain mapping, sewer and water infrastructure repair and case management.

While all of these are traditional uses for CDBG funds, using these funds specifically for disaster recovery has

proven much more complicated.

Below are some of the parameters of CDBG funds:

- CDBG funds are meant for community development projects during normal times and were not developed for use during disaster recovery.
- Distributions of CDBG funds must be reimbursements and cannot be made prior to the start of a project.
- All properties that are eligible for CDBG dollars must be inspected by certified inspectors to verify and estimate damage.
- CDBG funds must benefit people or communities with predominantly low to moderate incomes. For example, 51 percent of CDBG funds must be spent on people at the 80 percent Area Median Income (AMI) level or below.
- The National Environmental Preservation Act requires environmental notices and inspections **before** work is performed.
- The Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires clearance of

buildings as historic structures by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) **before** work can be performed.

- Federal Lead Safe Housing requirements must be met on all units. Testing for lead paint must be done on all homes built prior to 1978.
- Duplication of Benefits is prohibited. Therefore, disaster victims receiving CDBG funds must establish their actual damages, plus show what they have received from FEMA, the Small Business Administration (SBA), flood insurance, private insurance and other sources.

Meeting these rigorous regulations requires additional administrative procedures, prolongs the timeline to process individual requests for assistance and can be overwhelming to individual businesses and homeowners. That is why the state of Iowa has requested every possible waiver and continues to seek assistance from HUD to expedite the process for disaster-affected Iowans.

Despite these restrictive parameters,

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DISASTER RECOVERY BUSINESS RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Businesses and non-profits renting space in structures that were damaged by last summer's disasters may be eligible for assistance through the Disaster Recovery Business Rental Assistance Program.

The program provides financial assistance to organizations located in, or planning to locate in, rental space that was physically damaged by the disasters of 2008. The program is meant to help offset building rental lease payments for a maximum of six months and cannot exceed a total award amount of \$50,000. The award will be in the form of a forgivable loan to a business that has entered into a minimum one year market rate lease agreement. If the business stays open for the six month time period, the loan will be forgiven.

Local Councils of Governments (COGs) and Entitlement Cities began accepting

applications for the program on April 16.

The date for accepting applications for the rental assistance program coincided with the application deadline for the Jumpstart Small Business program. The rental assistance program is different than Jumpstart Small Business which provided emergency funds to nearly 800 disaster-impacted businesses. Instead, this program will assist not only businesses currently located in disaster areas, but will create an incentive and an opportunity to attract new businesses to grow and expand into these communities.

The remaining Jumpstart Small Business funds which have not been obligated to individual businesses will be reallocated to the Business Rental Assistance Program on April 30, 2009. For more information, please visit the RIO Web site.

LARGE-PROJECT RENTAL REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE NOW

A new program will now help owners of large rental properties damaged by last year's disasters.

The Large Project Rental Rehabilitation program allows landlords with eight or more disaster-affected units in one building to receive up to \$24,999 per unit for repairs.

Supplemental funds will also be available for lead hazard reduction, project delivery costs and temporary relocation. Total cost including supplemental assistance cannot exceed \$37,500 per unit.

Assistance will be in the form of a five-year forgivable loan (non-receding) which will be forgiven in full at the end of the five-year compliance period.

The Large Project Rental Rehabilitation program will be administered by the 11 Council of Governments (COGs) and Entitlement Cities that currently

administer the Jumpstart Housing Program. Applications must be submitted to one of these eleven entities.

Property owners must agree to comply with all federal, state and local requirements (including but not limited to Large Project Rental Rehabilitation guidelines, Fair Housing, accessibility for persons with disabilities, procurement and contracting requirements, etc.).

The Small Project Rental Rehabilitation Program for units of seven or fewer units was announced in January and is still available. Both the Small and Large Project Rental Rehabilitation programs are funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

To access an application and full program guidelines for the Large and Small Project Rental Rehabilitation programs, visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

More than \$2.2 billion has been secured to help Iowa recover from the 2008 disasters. Of that, more than one-fourth has reached disaster-affected individuals and communities, with more recovery funds being delivered to Iowans daily.

The Rebuild Iowa Office



The Rebuild Iowa Office is tasked with ensuring that the state rebuilds safer, stronger and smarter than before the 2008 disasters. The RIO is supported by a professional staff made up of existing state employees and hired full-time staff to allow it to achieve its mission, vision, goals and objectives. Throughout its initiatives, the RIO is committed to a recovery and rebuilding process that is fair and equitable to everyone.

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CDBG (continued from page 2)

Iowa has done well in distributing CDBG funds in a timely manner. After 2005's Hurricane Rita, Texas took 30 months to move its CDBG funding into the hands of disaster victims. Through the Jumpstart Housing Program, it took Iowa just

seven months after the disaster's declaration to get CDBG funds into the hands of affected Iowans. During those seven months, state funding for the Jumpstart programs helped bridge the gap before federal funds were available.

The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) and the Dept. of Economic Development (IDED) continue to work with state and local partners to get CDBG funds into the hands of disaster-impacted Iowans and communities as quickly as possible.

SMALL BUSINESS GRANT (continued from page 1)

one worker as a result of the disaster. Businesses do not need to have a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan or have received FEMA assistance in order to qualify for this program.

The grant can be used to reimburse or pay for the cost of repairing or replacing property and items damaged by the flood. Other eligible costs include disaster-related insurance co-payments and

deductibles, as long as the costs are associated with the business and not the individual.

The Small Business Disaster Recovery grant cannot be used for costs that have been covered by other sources including, but not limited to, FEMA, SBA, Jumpstart funds and insurance claims. Salary payments and capital improvement expenses are not eligible under the program.

About \$1.7 million is available for the program statewide on a first-come, first-serve basis. The RIO and IWD encourage business owners who may be eligible to apply as soon as possible due to the limited number of grants available at this time.

For more information about the Small Business Disaster Recovery Grant Program, visit the RIO Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

Clip & Save...

Federal Agencies

General FEMA Information	800.621.FEMA (3362)
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.462.7585
FEMA Fraud Detection	800.323.8603
National Flood Insurance Program	800.427.4661
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.427.5593
Social Security Administration	800.772.1213
U.S. Small Business Administration	800.659.2955
Internal Revenue Service	800.829.1040
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.829.4059
Tax-Related Disaster Relief	866.562.5227
Housing & Urban Development Hotline	800.669.9777
Department of Veterans Affairs	800.827.0648

Iowa Contacts

For up-to-date disaster and recovery information visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

To volunteer or make donations, contact:
Iowa Concern Hotline 800.447.1985

If you have questions about consumer fraud, contact:
Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division
888.777.4590 or 515.281.5926 or
www.state.ia.us/government/ag/

Disaster Unemployment Information 800.JOB.IOWA
Iowa Mortgage Help 877.622.4866 or
www.IowaMortgageHelp.com

Rebuild Iowa Office 866.849.0323
Iowa Other Needs Assistance 800.659.2955
Other Needs Assistance 866.434.4692